

# Enhanced Protective Measures Note – May 2021

## Supplementary Testing when Travelling from Abroad

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This guidance note should be read in conjunction with the Construction Leadership Council guidance including their Site Operating Procedures (CLC SOP), currently at version 7 at time of writing and all applicable HM Government guidance relating to working safely during COVID-19. The HS2 contractors are all committed to working in accordance with these procedures and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#when-you-can-leave-home>

### Objective

This note provides enhanced protective measure principles and behaviours that supplements the UK Governments travel advice and testing requirements when travelling from abroad with an HS2 exemption.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules>

These guiding principles represents the HS2 contractor's further commitment to 'I care, You Count, We Matter'. The health, safety and wellbeing of all staff stakeholders, the local communities in which we work, our supply chain and their families comes first whilst we will consistently apply our 4 values of Safety, Integrity, Respect and Leadership to COVID-19 controls and best practice.

### Background

- With a DfT exemption letter, HS2 workers travelling from abroad are allowed to go to the workplace whilst undertaking their 10-day self-isolation period. This increases risk of bringing COVID-19 into the HS2 community and into the UK. Despite COVID-19

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secure controls, there is still potential for workplace transfer within the first 48 hours of arrival if an employee has been infected immediately before or during their travel period.

- In addition, if the infection transpires to be a 'Variant of Concern' and is widely spread then this will put the DfT, HS2, HS2's contractors and their parent companies reputations at risk, especially if that resulted in significant spread that led to another lockdown or affected the UK's vaccination roll out effectiveness.

### Analysis

- The UK government requires a PCR test to be undertaken 3 days prior to travel and lateral flow tests on days 2, 5 and 8 after travel.
- A person is contagious 48 hours prior to symptoms coming out and 1 in 3 people are asymptomatic and could unknowingly transmit the disease.
- As a result and as shown below there is a risk undetected infection after day 5 before travel (48 hours before the pre-travel PCR test where infection could remain undetected), on the day of travel and on days 1 and 3 post travel (note the red contagious days in the table below pre and post travel).

**Existing UK Gov Compliant Controls: PCR Day -3 & Rapid Flow Testing Day 2, Day 5, Day 8**

	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0 Travel Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				PCR					UK Gov LF			UK Gov LF			UK Gov LF		
A	Exposed to VoC			Stopped by PCR													
B		Exposed to VoC		PCR will not have picked up virus early	Contagious & Spreading	Spreading	Symptoms – Spreading if asymptomatic	Asympto SPREADING	Notified by LF result & release	Day 2 LF will stop further transmission but we will have had potential exposure on Day 1.							
C			Exposed to VoC	PCR will not have picked up virus early	Contagious & Spreading	Contagious & Spreading	Symptoms – Spreading if asymptomatic	Notified by LF result & release									
D				Exposed to VoC		Contagious & Spreading	Contagious & Spreading	Notified by LF result & release	Our biggest risk and the highest potential is exposure on travel day.								
E				Exposed to VoC		Contagious & Spreading	Notified by LF result & release										
F					Exposed to VoC		Notified by LF result & release	Potential HS2 Risk Day Total: 6									
G						Exposed to VoC	LF will not have picked up virus early									Contagious	Spreading

- The chart below shows if we implement additional testing measures on the day of travel and on days 1 and 3 how the period of undetected infection is limited to pre-travel to the UK (note no red undetected contagious days in the table below whilst in the UK).

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## Proposed Mitigation: 3 additional LF Tests for DfT exemptions – Day 0, 1 and 3

	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0 Travel Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				PCR			HS2 LF Testing	HS2 LF	UK Gov LF	HS2 LF		UK Gov LF			UK Gov LF		
A	Exposed to VoC			Shipped by PCR													
B		Exposed to VoC		PCR will not have picked up virus early	Detected & Quarantined	Quarantined	Notified by LF result, isolate & DO NOT TRAVEL										
C			Exposed to VoC	PCR will not have picked up virus early		Detected & Quarantined	Notified by LF result, isolate & DO NOT TRAVEL										
D				Exposed to VoC			Notified by LF result, isolate & DO NOT TRAVEL										
E					Exposed to VoC			Notified by LF result, isolate									
F						Exposed to VoC			Notified by LF result & isolate								
G							Exposed to VoC		LF will not have picked up virus early	Notified by LF result & isolate							

Day 1 and Day 3 HS2 LF testings, supplemented by UK GOV Day 2 Testing will prevent an unknowing transfer of a VoC across our projects and reducing the risk significantly of further project/UK transmission.

All 3 tests are required

Any exposure after Day 0, would be a UK present strain.

Potential HS2 Risk Day Total: 0 (ZERO)

## Guidance

- To reduce the risk of a COVID-19 entering the UK (which could contain a 'Variant of Concern') as far as we can practically, the following actions are recommended as best practice for those travelling from abroad into the UK:
  - Travellers undertake a pre-travel rapid test either the night before or, in the morning of, the day of travel.
  - Additional mandatory rapid testing is to be undertaken by the traveller on days 1 and 3 in the workplace.